

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d)
Surface Water Quality Report**

**Volume 3 of 4
Section 303(d) List**

March 2004



NHDES-R-WD-04-6

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d)
Surface Water Quality Report

Volume 3 of 4
Section 303(d) List

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
29 HAZEN DRIVE
CONCORD, N.H. 03301

MICHAEL P. NOLIN
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL J. WALLS
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

HARRY T. STEWART
DIRECTOR
WATER DIVISION

Prepared by:
Gregg Comstock, P.E.

March 2004

Printed on Recycled Paper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.1	PURPOSE	1-1
1.2	ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND TERMS	1-2
1.3	DES SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT WEBSITE	1-2
CHAPTER 2	SECTION 303(D) LIST FORMAT	2-1
2.1	OVERVIEW.....	2-1

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:	SECTION 303(D) LIST	A
--------------------	----------------------------------	----------

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act [PL92-500, commonly called the Clean Water Act (CWA)], as last reauthorized by the Water Quality Act of 1987, requires each state to submit two surface water quality documents to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every two years. Section 305(b) of the CWA requires submittal of a report (commonly called the “305(b) Report”), that describes the quality of its surface waters and an analysis of the extent to which all such waters provide for the protection and propagation of a balanced population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and allow recreational activities in and on the water.

The second document is typically called the “303(d) List “ which is so named because it is a requirement of Section 303(d) of the CWA. The 303(d) List includes surface waters that are:

- impaired or threatened by a pollutant or pollutant(s),
- not expected to meet water quality standards within a reasonable time even after application of best available technology standards for point sources or best management practices for nonpoint sources and,
- require development and implementation of a comprehensive water quality study (i.e., called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL study) that is designed to meet water quality standards.

The 2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d) Surface Water Quality Assessment Report is comprised of the following four volumes:

- Volume 1 – Assessment Methodology and Summaries by Waterbody Type
- Volume 2 – Individual Surface Water Assessments
- Volume 3 – Section 303(d) List
- Volume 4 – Additional Section 305(b) Submittal Requirements

The purpose of Volume 1 is to provide the methodology for making assessments and a summary of the surface water quality assessment results for each of the following waterbody types:

- Estuaries
- Impoundments
- Lakes and Ponds
- Ocean (within State jurisdiction)
- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands (not assessed this cycle)

Volume 2 includes assessment results for each individual surface water or assessment unit (AU). For this assessment cycle, surface waters in New Hampshire were divided into over 5000 individual AUs. Consequently, the list in Volume 2 is quite extensive.

This document (Volume 3) includes the Section 303(d) List as described above.

Finally, Volume 4 includes additional CWA Section 305(b) submittal requirements such as analyses on the social and economic impacts of clean water and information on the nonpoint source program. Together, Volumes 1 through 4 fulfill Section 305(b)/303(d) reporting requirements.

1.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND TERMS

The 2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d) Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (i.e., the CALM) describes in detail how surface water quality assessment decisions were made. The CALM also includes descriptions and definitions of the many terms used in the assessment tables and lists presented in Volumes 1 through 3. A copy of the CALM is provided in Appendix B of this document for easy reference. Readers are strongly encouraged to read the CALM before reviewing assessments as it will help one to better understand and interpret assessment results.

1.3 DES SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT WEBSITE

Readers are also encouraged to visit the DES Surface Water Quality Assessment website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa for downloadable copies of these documents as well as additional assessment information, lists and maps. The website also includes instructions to help find assessment information for any waterbody of interest. This includes one list sorted in alphabetical order by waterbody type and then waterbody name and another sorted by town/city, then waterbody type and then waterbody name. Using these lists the assessment unit number (or AUID) for any waterbody can be obtained. Knowing the AUID, Volumes 2 and 3 can be consulted to find assessment results.

CHAPTER 2 SECTION 303(D) LIST FORMAT

2.1 OVERVIEW

The Section 303(d) List is provided in Appendix A. As previously mentioned, the Section 303(d) List only includes waters that are impaired or threatened by pollutants that require Total Maximum Daily Load studies (TMDLs). Consequently, the 303(d) List represents a subset of all impaired waters as not all impairments require a TMDL.

The List is sorted by waterbody type and then Assessment Unit ID number or AUID (each waterbody has a unique AUID). Each record includes the use support status for each designated use in that assessment unit, the cause and source of impairment (if applicable) and the estimated date that the TMDL will be completed. As mentioned in Section 1.2, the reader is encouraged to review the 2004 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology provided in Volume 1 before reviewing the assessments as it will help one to better understand and interpret the assessment results. As discussed in Section 1.3, lists are available on the DES website to assist readers with finding AUID numbers for any waterbody of interest.

Before proceeding, it is important to note that all surface waters are impaired due to statewide fish/shellfish consumption advisories issued because of elevated levels of mercury in fish and shellfish tissue. Since mercury is a pollutant that requires a TMDL, all 5000+ surface waters in New Hampshire are included on the Section 303(d) List. However, in order to keep the length of the 303(d) List in Appendix A to manageable size, surface waters impaired solely by atmospheric mercury deposition were not included.

APPENDIX A: Section 303(d) List